

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of June 14 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 1, 12, 17, 19, 26, and 70-72 have been amended, claims 13-15, 28, 30, 32, 33, 36-42, 45, 49-51, 53-62, 69, 74, and 75 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-10, 12, 16-27, 43, 44, and 70-73 thus remain pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Allowed Subject Matter

The final Office Action indicates that claims 43 and 44 are allowed, and claims 11, 12, 17, 19-21, 24, 26, and 70-72 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has herein amended claim 1 to incorporate the features of allowable claim 11, amended claims 17 and 70-72 to be in independent form, and has amended claims 12, 19, and 26 to correct claim dependency changes resulting from the aforementioned amendments. All pending claims are now in allowable form.

Objection to the Specification

The final Office Action objects to the specification with respect to claims 28 and 30. This objection is mooted by the present cancellation of claims 28 and 30.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 28, 36-39, and 74 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Armstrong *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,729,219, hereinafter Armstrong). This rejection is mooted by the cancellation of the rejected claims.

Claims 28, 30, 36-40, 59-62, 74 and 75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Hayes, Jr. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,131,047, hereinafter Hayes, Jr.). This rejection is mooted by the cancellation of the rejected claims.

Appln. No.: 09/988,740
Amendment dated August 12, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 14, 2005

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10, 13-16, 18, 22, 23, 25, 27, 32, 33, 41, 42, 45, 49-51, 53-58, 69, 73, and 75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayes, Jr. in view of Armstrong. This rejection is mooted by the present amendment, as discussed above.

CONCLUSION


All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same. However, if for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3153.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated this 12 day of Aug, 2005

By:



Ross Dannenberg, Registration No. 49,024

1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Tel: (202) 824-3000
Fax: (202) 824-3001

RAD/mmd